

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2795 Session of 2020

INTRODUCED BY McCARTER, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, CIRESI, KINSEY, FREEMAN, MADDEN, ZABEL, ULLMAN, ISAACSON, SANCHEZ, LEE, SHUSTERMAN, WILLIAMS, KIM, ROZZI, MALAGARI, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, GAINEY AND INNAMORATO, AUGUST 13, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, AUGUST 13, 2020

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An
 2 act relating to the public school system, including certain
 3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial
 4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the
 5 laws relating thereto," in terms and courses of study,
 6 providing for science curriculum to include climate change.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
 8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
 10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding a
 11 section to read:

12 Section 1529. Science Curriculum to Include Climate
 13 Change.--(a) Beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, each
 14 school entity shall:

15 (1) Provide instruction on climate change in the science
 16 course of study beginning in elementary school.

17 (2) Implement the instruction on climate change in the
 18 science course of study to align with the Next Generation
 19 Science Standards.

1 (b) The department shall:

2 (1) Develop a model climate change science curriculum which
3 may include materials from the Next Generation Science Standards
4 and make the curriculum available to all school entities and,
5 upon request, to nonpublic schools.

6 (2) Compile, develop and post on its publicly accessible
7 Internet website the model curriculum which may include
8 materials already publicly available.

9 (c) As used in this section, the following words and phrases
10 shall have the meanings given to them in this subsection unless
11 the context clearly indicates otherwise:

12 "Department." The Department of Education of the
13 Commonwealth.

14 "Nonpublic school." A nonprofit school, other than a school
15 entity, wherein a resident of this Commonwealth may legally
16 fulfill the compulsory school attendance requirements of this
17 act and which meets the requirements of Title VI of the Civil
18 Rights Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-352, 78 Stat. 241).

19 "School entity." A school district, joint school district,
20 charter school, regional charter school, cyber charter school,
21 intermediate unit or area vocational-technical school.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect September 1, 2020, or
23 immediately, whichever is later.